

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 18 to 23 and amend Claims 1, 10 and 17 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A purchase request approving apparatus capable of approving a purchase request of a desired article stored in a database in advance, comprising:

display means for displaying ~~items of information, the items of information being (i) stored in a database in advance and (ii) associated with articles for which approval of purchase is requested,~~ in a list window capable of displaying the articles as a list a list window, wherein the list window contains a list of articles for which approval is requested, a selection approval button to display an approval processing window, and a selection reject button to display a rejection processing window;

selecting means for selecting ~~a desired~~ an article, in accordance with a user operation, from the articles displayed in the list window;

display control means for ~~controlling~~ executing appearance of an approval processing window in response to selection of the selection approval button, and for executing appearance of a rejection processing window in response to selection of the selection reject button, wherein the approval processing window having has an approval button to perform approval of the selected article, an approval cancel button to cancel approval processing of the selected article, and the selected article, and wherein the [[a]] rejection processing window having has a reject button to perform rejection of the selected

article, a reject cancel button to cancel rejection processing of the selected article, and the selected article the approval window and the rejection window being different from each other and each window being displayed at a time different than the time the other window is displayed;

~~input means for inputting information representing approval of purchase of the selected article in the approval window, and~~

~~purchase approving means for, when information representing approval of purchase of the selected subject article is input, storing the inputted information in the database, the selected article as an approved article in the database, and deleting the selected article from the displayed items associated with the articles displayed by said display means, displayed items associated with the approved article the list in the list window in response to selecting the approval button in the approval processing window;~~
and

purchase rejection means for storing the selected article as a rejected article in the database in response to selecting the reject button in the rejection processing window.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a purchase request for approval is requested from a requester belonging to a group based on predetermined common information, and wherein said apparatus further comprises requester group setting means for setting a plurality of desired requester groups for which

approval or rejection of purchase is to be determined by said purchase approving means in accordance with the predetermined common information.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the group of requesters is a section group in a company, and the predetermined common information is an identification code, identification codes representing each section of the company.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising purchase request means for inputting (i) information associated with the desired article to be purchase-requested and (ii) information for requesting approval of purchase of the desired article and storing the input information in the database, and wherein said purchase request means includes display means for displaying, before the input information is stored in the database, a list of specific information associated with a person who can approve or reject the purchase request from the requester, the requestor inputting (i) the input information and (ii) specific information associated with a person who has set the desired requester group by said requester groups setting means, and selecting a desired person from whom the requester requests approval to purchase, using the displayed list.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the information representing approval of purchase of the selected article is input and

a purchase price of the article exceeds a predetermined amount, said purchase approving means notifies a user of the purchase price exceeding the predetermined amount.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising purchase request means for (i) inputting information associated with the desired article to be purchase-requested and (ii) information for requesting approval of purchase of the desired article and storing the input information in the database.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means is a browser of an Internet, the browser being executed by said purchase request approving apparatus connected to a communication network, and wherein said purchase approving means is constructed by a predetermined Web page displayed by the browser.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said purchase request approving apparatus is a client terminal connected to a communication network which can use an intranet environment.

10. (Currently Amended) A purchase request approving method of approving a purchase request of a desired article stored in a database in advance using a computer, said method comprising:

a display step of display ~~items of information, the items of information~~ being (i) ~~stored in a database in advance~~ and (ii) ~~associated with articles for which approval of purchase is requested~~, in a list window capable of displaying the articles as a list a list window, wherein the list window contains a list of articles for which approval is requested, a selection approval button to display an approval processing window, and a selection reject button to display a rejection processing window;

a selecting step of selecting ~~a desired~~ an article in accordance with a user operation, from the articles displayed in the list window;

a display control step of ~~controlling~~ executing appearance of an approval processing window in response to selection of the selection approval button, and of executing appearance of a rejection processing window in response to selection of the selection reject button, wherein the approval processing window having has an approval button to perform approval of the selected article, an approval cancel button to cancel approval processing of the selected article, and the selected article, and wherein the [[a]] rejection processing window having has a reject button to perform rejection of the selected article, a reject cancel button to cancel rejection processing of the selected article, and the selected article the approval window and the rejection window being different from each other and each window being displayed at a time different than the time the other window is displayed;

~~an input step of inputting information representing approval of purchase of a
the selected article in the approval window, and~~

~~a purchase approving step of, when information representing approval of
purchase of the selected subject article is input, storing the inputted information in the
database, the selected article as an approved article in the database, and deleting the
selected article from the displayed items associated with the articles displayed by said
display means, displayed items associated with the approved article the list in the list
window in response to selecting the approval button in the approval processing window;
and~~

~~a purchase rejection step of storing the selected article as a rejected article in
the database in response to selecting the reject button in the rejection processing window.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein
a purchase request for approval is requested from a requester belonging to a group based
on predetermined common information, and wherein said method further comprises a
requester group setting step of setting a plurality of desired requester groups for which
approval or rejection of purchase is to be determined in said purchase approving step in
accordance with the predetermined common information.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein
the group of requesters is a section group in a company, and the predetermined common

information is an identification code, identification codes representing each section of the company.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising a purchase request step of inputting (i) information associated with the desired article to be purchase-requested and (ii) information for requesting approval of purchase of the desired article, and storing the input information in the database, and wherein said purchase request step includes a display step of displaying, before the input information is stored in the database, a list of specific information associated with a person who can approve or reject the purchase request from the requester, the requester inputting (i) the input information and (ii) specific information associated with a person who has set the desired requester group in said requester groups setting step, and selecting a desired person from which the requester requests approval to purchase, using the displayed list.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein, in said display step, a browser of an Internet is executed on a client terminal connected to a communication network to display the items of information associated with the articles, and wherein in said purchase approving step, information representing approval or rejection of purchase is input to a window on a predetermined Web page displayed by the browser.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the client terminal is connected to a communication network which can use an intranet environment.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing a purchase request approving method of approving a purchase request of a desired article stored in a database in advance using a computer, said method comprising:

a display step of display ~~items of information, the items of information~~ being (i) ~~stored in a database in advance and (ii) associated with articles for which approval of purchase is requested, in a list window capable of displaying the articles as a list~~ a list window, wherein the list window contains a list of articles for which approval is requested, a selection approval button to display an approval processing window, and a selection reject button to display a rejection processing window;

a selecting step of selecting ~~a desired~~ an article in accordance with a user operation, from the articles displayed in the list window;

a display control step of ~~controlling~~ executing appearance of an approval processing window in response to selection of the selection approval button, and of executing appearance of a rejection processing window in response to selection of the selection reject button, wherein the approval processing window having has an approval

button to perform approval of the selected article, an approval cancel button to cancel approval processing of the selected article, and the selected article, and wherein the [[a]] rejection processing window having has a reject button to perform rejection of the selected article, a reject cancel button to cancel rejection processing of the selected article, and the selected article ~~the approval window and the rejection window being different from each other and each window being displayed at a time different than the time the other window is displayed;~~

~~an input step of inputting information representing approval of purchase of the selected article in the approval window; and~~

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~~a purchase approving step of, when information representing approval of purchase of the selected subject article is input, storing the inputted information in the database; the selected article as an approved article in the database, and deleting the selected article from the displayed items associated with the articles displayed by said display means, displayed items associated with the approved article the list in the list window in response to selecting the approval button in the approval processing window; and~~

a purchase rejection step of storing the selected article as a rejected article in the database in response to selecting the reject button in the rejection processing window.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising receiving means for receiving e-mail from a requester having a URL to display the list window.

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19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising mail sending means for sending e-mail to a client, which has requested the approval of the selected articles, in response to selecting the approval button or reject button, the e-mail having a URL to display the status of the selected article.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the list window has a select box corresponding to each listed article, and said selecting means selects an article, in accordance with a user operation, by selecting the select box corresponding to the article.

21. (New) The method according to claim 10, further comprising a receiving step of receiving e-mail from a requester having a URL to display the list window.

22. (New) The method according to claim 10, further comprising a mail sending step of sending e-mail to a client, which has requested the approval of the selected articles, in response to selecting the approval button or reject button, the e-mail having a URL to display the status of the selected article.

23. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the list window has a select box corresponding to each listed article, and said selecting step selects an

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article, in accordance with a user operation, by selecting the select box corresponding to the article.
